

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 14-16, and 18-19 are pending and are rejected. Claims 1 and 8 are amended. Claims 14-16 and 18-19 are canceled without prejudice. Applicants request reconsideration as follows.

DRAWINGS

Applicants submit amended drawings in response to the objections and request their withdrawal. Sheets 10 and 11 are amended and renumbered as sheets 10 and 14, respectively. New drawing sheets 11-13 are added, supported at least at p. 4 last paragraph:

The reactants can be bound by covalent or ionic binding, by complex formation or through hydrophobic interaction. The binding can be effected directly or by means of linkers. For example, the molded part may be designed as a pipette tip, piece of flexible tubing, rod, single or multiple vessel, microtitration plate, immersed body sphere or plate.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 14-16, 18, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 ¶2 as indefinite.

To further prosecution, Applicants have canceled claims 14-16, 18, and 19 without prejudice. The rejection of claims 14-16, 18, and 19 is thus moot and Applicants request the rejection be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-10, 14, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Shukla.

Applicants have canceled claims 14 and 19, thus rendering their rejection moot.

Regarding claims 1-10, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 8 to clarify that the integral molded part "consists of one chemically unitary starting material", supported at least at p. 3 ¶4, thus introducing no new matter. As the Examiner stated, Shukla discloses "an integral molded part of a plastic material with particles of a separation medium". Applicants respectfully assert that "a plastic material with particles of a separation medium" is not one chemically unitary starting material, but instead are two distinct materials, namely, plastic and particles, that are combined. Shukla does not disclose an integral molded part that consists of one chemically unitary starting material for the analysis and preparation of substances, as Applicants' claim requires. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully assert that Shukla does not anticipate claims 1-10, and respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

The application is believed to be in complete condition for allowance. The fee for time extensions is simultaneously made by Electronic Funds Transfer. No other fees are believed due but, if deemed necessary, the Office is authorized to charge them, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 20-0809.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants undersigned representative with questions.

Respectfully submitted,
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